

Appl. No. 10/551,514
Amdt. dated July 31, 2009
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2009May 4, 2009

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-4 replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are currently amended. Applicant respectfully submits that support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and the drawings. Claims 1-12 remain pending in the Application after entry of this Amendment. No new matter has been entered.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being indefinite.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and have amended claims 1-12 as suggested. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

OATH/DECLARATION

The Declaration was objected to as having erroneous filing data in the Application Data Sheet (ADS). A revised ADS is submitted herewith to correct this error.

OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS

New drawings were required because lines and reference numbers were not uniform. In addition, FIG. 1 was to be designated as PRIOR ART. Accordingly, replacement drawings in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121(d) are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added to the drawings. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification: At the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has inserted the necessary subtitles.

Applicant has made further amendments unrelated to any objection or rejection to the specification as follows:

In ¶ 0008, Applicant has corrected a typographical error in the Application by changing the words "heat sensing" to "heating." Support for corrected language can be found in ¶ 0006 as well as claim 1, at line 5, of the original Application.

In ¶ 0012, Applicant has amended the language to keep the specification consistent with amended claim 5, which was amended at the Examiner's request. Applicant submits that this change does not alter the scope of the invention, and that the change merely clarifies the disclosure. Applicant further submits that support for the physical structure described by this language can be found in figure 3 of the original Application.

Additionally in ¶ 0012, Applicant has amended the language to replace the word "passageway" with the word "channel." Applicant submits that the two words were used synonymously, and that the word "passageway" was replaced with the word "channel" in all instances to clarify the disclosure.

In ¶ 0014, Applicant has amended the language to keep the specification consistent with amended claim 1, which was amended at the Examiner's request. Applicant submits that this change does not alter the scope of the invention, and that the change merely clarifies the disclosure. Applicant further submits that support for the physical structure this language describes can be found in figure 4 of the original Application, which shows plastic mould compound 110 that encapsulates the gel-covered assembly 102 and 104.

OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 and 8-12 have been objected to for various informalities. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to these claims as Applicant has made all of the Examiner's suggested corrections to claims 1-4 and 8-12.

Applicant has amended claim 5 to replace the word "passageway" with the word "channel." Applicant submits that the two words were used synonymously in the disclosure, and that the word "passageway" was replaced with the word "channel" in all instances to clarify the disclosure.

Applicant has made an additional amendment to claim 4 unrelated to any objection or rejection to correct a typographical error and refer back to claim 3 rather than claim 2. Applicant submits that "the lead frame" referred to in claim 4 finds antecedent basis in claim 3, but not in claim 2.

Applicant has made an additional amendment to correct a minor error in claim 8 unrelated to any objection or rejection. The words "heat sensing" have been replaced with the word "heating." Support for corrected language can be found in ¶ 0006 as well as claim 1, at line 5, of the original Application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the method. Applicant submits that this clarification of claim 1 finds support in ¶s 0031-32, and elsewhere, of the original specification.

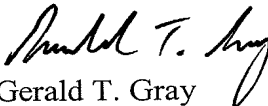
Applicant has amended claim 5 to clarify the method. Applicant submits that support for the physical structure described in amended claim 5 can be found in figure 3 and in ¶0026 of the original Application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments
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